Reply Under 37 CFR 1.312
Expedited Procedure
PATENT

AMENDMENT

In The Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Please amend claims 16-18, a clean copy of these amended claims, along with a copy of all unamended pending claims is included in Attachment A herein, and a marked-up version of the amended claims is included in Attachment B herein.

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 11-13, and 16-22 are pending in the application. Claims 16-18 are amended herein to expressly include the limitations of canceled claim 14 as such claim was canceled in the February 28, 2000 response to Office Action, and claims 16-18 were not amended to include the limitations. The amendments are to correct dependency errors that were introduced by the cancellation of independent claim 14 and do not narrow claims 16-18.

In the event that the Examiner is unable to enter such amendments, Applicant will submit a certificate of correction in the issued patent upon receipt of the patent number for the allowed patent application.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, amendments, and for various other reasons, Applicant submits that allowed claims 1-4, 11-13, and 16-22 are in condition for issuance. If any impediment to the issue of these claims remains after entry of this Rule 312 Amendment, and such impediment could be alleviated during a telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 23, 2001

By: Russell C. Scott
Russell C. Scott, Reg. No.: 43,103
Customer Number 020790

ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT

Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, L.L.P.
816 Congress Avenue, Suite 1900
Austin, Texas 78701
Tel: (512) 499-6200
Fax: (512) 499-6290

ATTACHMENT A

Clean Copy of Amended and Pending Claims (As of 10/23/01)

1. A method for automatedly administering an audiometric test, comprising the steps of controlling an audiometer to selectively switch the audiometer output between test tones generated by the audiometer and sound signals generated from digital information;

first switching the audiometer output to sound signals when the step of controlling indicates a particular condition;

outputting sound representative of the sound signals after the step of first switching;

second switching the audiometer output to test tones after the step of outputting; and

outputting test tones until the next step of first switching.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the particular condition is selected from the group consisting of a beginning of a new test, a completion of a current test, and a test error.

3. A multimedia audiometer, comprising:

means for outputting sound signals generated from digital information;

means for outputting test tones;

means for switching between the means for outputting sound signals and the means for outputting test tones, the means for switching being communicatingly connected with the means for outputting sound signals and the means for outputting test tone; and

means for controlling the means for switching, the means for controlling being communicatingly connected with the means for switching.

4. A multimedia audiometer, comprising:

a computer;

a tone generator;

a switch connected with the multimedia computer and the tone generator;

wherein the switch selectively causes either the tone generator or the computer to output sound waves and the computer controls the switch.

11. An instrument, the instrument conducts a test protocol on a test subject, the test protocol comprises an output by the instrument followed by an input to the instrument, the test subject determines the input, the input may be positive, negative, or null, comprising:

an output generator;

an input detector for detecting the input;

a digital data storage for storing a digital data;

a multimedia converter, the multimedia converter converts the digital data to an analog signal; and

logic circuitry connected to the input detector, the digital data storage, the multimedia converter, and the output generator, for logically operating on the input, reading the digital data, delivering the digital data to the multimedia converter, and controlling the output generator.

12. The instrument of claim 11, wherein the output generator comprises:

an analog test tone generator; and

a sound wave generator for producing sound waves representative of the analog signal.

13. The instrument of claim 12, wherein the output generator further comprises a switch for switching the output generator between the analog test tone generator and the sound wave generator.

16. (Amended) A multimedia audiometer, comprising:

a basic audiometer;

a computer wherein the computer comprises a sound wave generator for converting a digital information to analog signals in respect of the digital information;

a multimedia input interface communicatingly connecting the computer and the basic audiometer; and

a communications interface communicatingly connecting the computer and the basic audiometer.

17. (Amended) A multimedia audiometer, comprising:

a basic audiometer;

a computer;

a multimedia input interface communicatingly connecting the computer and the basic audiometer;

a communications interface communicatingly connecting the computer and the basic audiometer; and

a switch connected to the multimedia input interface and the basic audiometer,on the one hand, and the output speaker, on the other hand, for switching between a first signal communicated over the multimedia input interface and a second signal generated by the basic audiometer as an output for the output speaker.

18. (Amended) A multimedia audiometer, comprising:

a basic audiometer;

a computer wherein the computer and the basic audiometer communicate over the communications interface and the computer controls the operation of the audiometer over the communications interface;

a multimedia input interface communicatingly connecting the computer and the basic audiometer; and

a communications interface communicatingly connecting the computer and the basic audiometer.

19. The multimedia audiometer of claim 17, wherein the computer and the basic audiometer communicate over the communications interface and the computer controls the operation of the audiometer over the communications interface and wherein the switch comprises a relay and the computer controls the relay in order to switch between the first signal communicated over the multimedia input interface and the second signal generated by the basic audiometer as the output for the output speaker.

20. The multimedia audiometer of claim 19, wherein the computer comprises a sound wave generator for converting a digital information stored by the computer to analog signals in respect of the digital information.

21. A diagnostic instrument, comprising:

means for outputting an audible sound;

means for generating a test tone;

means for storing a digital data;

means for generating an analog signal derived from the digital data;

means for switching an output of the means for outputting between the test tone and the analog signal, the means for switching being electrically connected to the means for generating a test tone and the means for generating an analog signal;

means for processing;

means for inputting, the means for inputting connects the means for processing to the means for outputting; and

means for communicating, the means for communicating connects the means for processing to the means for outputting, the means for generating the test tone, the means for storing the digital data, the means for generating the analog signal, the means for switching, and the means for inputting.

22. A method of performing a diagnostic test protocol, comprising the steps of outputting an audible sound;

generating a test tone;

storing a digital data;

generating an analog sound derived from the digital data;

switching the audible sound from the step of outputting between the test tone and the analog signal;

processing the digital data; and

controlling the steps of outputting, generating the test tone, storing, generating the analog sound, and switching.

ATTACHMENT B

Marked-Up Version of Amended Claims (As of 10/23/01)

16. (Amended) [The multimedia audiometer of claim 14,] A multimedia audiometer, comprising:

a basic audiometer;

a computer wherein the computer comprises a sound wave generator for converting a digital information to analog signals in respect of the digital information;

a multimedia input interface communicatingly connecting the computer and the basic audiometer; and

a communications interface communicatingly connecting the computer and the basic audiometer.

17. (Amended) [The multimedia audiometer of claim 14, further comprising] A multimedia audiometer, comprising:

a basic audiometer;

a computer;

a multimedia input interface communicatingly connecting the computer and the basic audiometer;

a communications interface communicatingly connecting the computer and the basic audiometer; and

a switch connected to the multimedia input interface and the basic audiometer,on the one hand, and the output speaker, on the other hand, for switching between a first signal communicated over the multimedia input interface and a second signal generated by the basic audiometer as an output for the output speaker.

18. (Amended) [The multimedia audiometer of claim 14,] A multimedia audiometer, comprising:

a basic audiometer;

a computer wherein the computer and the basic audiometer communicate over the communications interface and the computer controls the operation of the audiometer over the communications interface;

a multimedia input interface communicatingly connecting the computer and the basic audiometer; and

a communications interface communicatingly connecting the computer and the basic audiometer.